

Serial No.: 10/696,710
Art Unit: 2614
Inventor: Takuya SEKIGUCHI et al.

Attorney's Docket No.: FUR0005-DIV.1
Page 5

REMARKS

Claims 41-50 were originally filed. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 41-50 and added new claims 51-55. Accordingly, claims 51-55 will be pending herein upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination on the merits. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests a favorable action on the merits of the pending claims. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

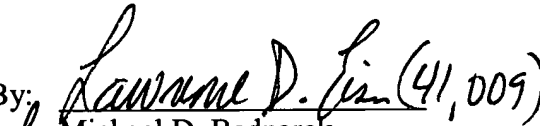
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Date: April 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

TAKUYA SEKIGUCHI ET AL.

By:


Michael D. Bednarek
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MDB/LDE/ggb